

share the concerns of my colleagues that the public may misinterpret the granting of a federal charter as a sign of Congressional or governmental approval of an organization. In 1989, the House Judiciary Committee decided to place a moratorium on federal charters. I believe the Committee should examine whether Congress should allow existing federal charters to lapse, so that Congress is no longer in the business of seeming to endorse private organizations.

Let me reiterate that I believe discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is unacceptable. I will continue to support H.R. 1082, to expand federal criminal law protection to extend to sexual orientation, and I will continue to work for the enactment of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). I believe that the Congress must take concrete steps to revise government policies that would bring about a more inclusive American family, which embraces all of our citizens as individuals worthy of equal protection of the law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 12, 2000, I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On H.R. 2090 (rollcall No. 460), Exploration of the Seas Act, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. GREENWOOD, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 4957 (rollcall No. 461), to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act to extend the legislative authority for the Black Patriots Foundation, introduced by the gentleman from New York, Mr. RANGEL, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 3632, (rollcall No. 462), the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. LANTOS, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 4583, (rollcall No. 463), authorization extension for the Air Force Memorial Foundation, introduced by the gentleman from Utah, Mr. HANSEN, I would have voted "yea."

On S. 1374 (rollcall No. 464), the Jackson Multi-Agency Campus Act, introduced by the gentleman from the other body, Mr. CRAIG of Idaho, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DR. KENT VOSLER

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Kent Vosler. On September 16, 2000 Dr. Vosler will be admitted into the Ohio State University Athletic Hall of Fame. In addition to his contribution to the Buckeye Diving team, Kent was also on the 1976 Montreal Olympic team.

Kent is one of a long list of great Ohio State divers. His accomplishments at Ohio State were many. He was a four time NCAA All-American and a four time Ohio State Scholar Athlete. While a senior in high school he won gold medals in 1 meter diving and in 10 meter platform diving at the national age group championships, and was coached at various times by Ohio State Hall of Famers Ron O'Brien, Vince Panzano and Hobie Billingsley. He later won four National AAU diving championships, was a member of the 1975 Pan American Games American team, and the 1976 Olympic team.

Kent was born December 6, 1955 in Dayton, Ohio but he now considers Eaton, Ohio, in the heart of Ohio's 8th Congressional District his home. He is the only Olympian to ever hail from Preble County, Ohio. All of Ohio is proud of Kent and I congratulate him on his many accomplishments.

HONORING DR. JOE VIGIL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to have this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Alamosa's most well-loved and admired coaches, Dr. Joe Vigil, as he prepares to leave Adams State College after a decorated and distinguished 29-year career. Joe has been the embodiment of service and success during his time at Adams State and clearly deserves the praise and recognition of this body as he, his runners and the town of Alamosa, Colorado celebrate his groundbreaking career.

If ever there were a person who embodied the spirit and values that motivate others to achieve success, it is Joe. He has distinguished himself through his exceptional leadership and service that have placed him amongst the elite running coaches in the country. He was voted No. 3 on the list of Colorado's top collegiate coaches in the past 100 years and received the honor of NCAA and NAIA Coach Of The Year 14 times. He has also served the United States as an international coach on 17 different occasions, including several Olympic Games. Most notably, Joe coached his teams to 18 national championships, accounting for more than 350 All-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Joe's commitment to his community has been so great that it led the Alamosa City Council to proclaim August 12, 2000, Joe I. Vigil day. Their proclamation reads:

"Whereas Dr. Joe I. Vigil has led Adams State College teams to athletic excellence over the years, whereas he has successfully coached numerous Olympic and champion athletes, whereas he is an inspiration for recreational runners and a role model for all, whereas he represents Alamosa nationally and internationally as an athletic ambassador, now therefore, I, Charles J. Griego, Mayor Pro Tem of Alamosa, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim August 12, 2000, as Dr. Joe I. Vigil Day in the City of Alamosa, Colorado."

As Joe celebrates leaving Adams State College and Alamosa, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you and congratulations on behalf of the United States Congress. In every sense, Joe is a great coach who deserves praise and admiration from all of us. I wish him the best of luck as he continues to pursue his coaching career in Green Valley, Arizona. Joe is one of the nation's best and someone we can all be proud of.

My thanks to him for a job well done.

HONORING ART FURUYA

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Art Furuya, formerly of Nashville, Illinois. While he may no longer reside in my district, there is a valuable lesson we can learn from his story.

When most 17 year olds think of cars, proms and graduation, Art's thoughts turned to defending his country. You see, December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, was Art's birthday. The following Monday, Art, who is of Japanese descent, went to enlist in the war effort. He tried to enlist in the Army, Navy and Marines, but none would take him because of his Japanese heritage.

He and his family were separated and were victims of the internment camps. Surprisingly, after suffering that great injustice, the one thing that never left his heart was his love of America.

After leaving the camp, he was finally allowed to enter the Army in 1943 as part of the heavy weapons battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team along with many Japanese Americans. The fact that he had little training and did not know how to put up a tent made little difference to Art. He was eager to serve and fight for the land he loved.

The 442nd may be best known for their "Go For Broke" mantra when they were rescuing about 200 fellow soldiers of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Division. Eight hundred men died in that rescue effort. His company started with 150 men and ended up with 16 after that fateful battle. Art won 2 Purple Hearts for his service.

The 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Combat team, in which Art served, gained a total of 18,143 individual decorations, 9,486 Purple Hearts, and 560 Silver Stars and 7 Presidential Unit Citations. Not a bad record for a group of men that were originally unwanted and deemed suspicious by others.

There has been much written about the "Greatest Generation"—those World War II vets who set forth and saved the world. I don't know if we as a nation can adequately give thanks for their blood, sweat and sacrifice. In many respects, Art and his comrades symbolize the unyielding human spirit—overcoming any obstacle, no matter how difficult, without the expressed purpose of gaining fame or glory. They were just doing their duty. No more. No less.

To Art Furuya, his comrades in his battalion and to those that never made it home from